

FEB 04



MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE EXPRESS



DOGMA

OPUS TREES

CD REVIEWS

GODLESS REDS

EDDIE & THE HOT RODS

3DBS DOWN

FEB GIG LISTINGS

1ST EVER MEDWAY MUSIC CONFERENCE

FREE AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MM2K**

What a start to the New Year!

Newly signed Cherubs and (soon to be signed I'm sure) UpCDownC have been getting airplay on XFM. The Barbs play uptown, Opus Trees play a 600 capacity gig at Brixton Telegraph and Fuzz begin 2004 at the Carling Academy! What does March hold for the local scene?!

Well, some major players in the industry will be sharing their wisdom at Medway's first ever music conference on **Tuesday 9th March** at the Tap n Tin, finishing off with a few bevies and a live band.

See flyer for details.

Enjoy the gigs and please let us know what you think.

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Websites

MME has joined forces with Medway Music 2000 (MM2K) and www.mnmbands.co.uk to bring you comprehensive gig listings, the latest info on music events, workshops, gig and EP reviews and interviews.
www.medwaymusic.net



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A battle for the best

Battle of the Bands 2004 is about to begin at the Beacon Court Tavern, a competition organised by Magic Discs in Gillingham and the venue, now sponsored by Ranscombe Studios.

A record number of entries have been received this year. For information call Mick at Magic Discs on 01634 281596. Preliminary heats begin on Thurs 5th Feb at the Beacon Court and continue on most Thursdays thereafter. The live draw to see which bands compete this year will take place on Thursday 22nd April. Twelve judges have been confirmed, including musicians and producers. There is a £1000 prize for the winning band plus a recording session with Jim Riley at Ranscombe Studios, production of a CD and 50 copies. The runners up get £100. Trophies for best frontman, best musician and best set are also up for grabs this year.

Advance ticket gigs coming up at the Beacon Court Tavern include Chas n Dave on 13th March £10 and John O'tway with support from the Cowpokers £9 on 26th March.

New rock night

A weekly rock jam night now takes place every Tuesday at The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham (apart from 10th Feb) - 8.30pm till 11pm. Go jam with Sibling Rivalry, all playing abilities are welcome. "Bring your mates and show 'em how well you can play guitar, bass, drum or sing."

Play at Glastonbury 04!

Glasto is holding a competition for musicians. Winners will be offered a chance to play on one of the main stages at

Glastonbury Festival 2004. It's open to all musicians, solo artists or bands. Winners will get one of the reserved slots on the Acoustic Stage, Dance Tent, New Tent, or the World Stage, with the overall winner appearing on the Other Stage. Download the application form at www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk. Hurry, the deadline for entries is 1st March 2004.

Airplay on XFM

UpCDownC had their latest release 'Shallows' played on XFM last month, all ten minutes of it! It was played on John Kennedy's show 'Exposure' and he called the track "an epic", "excellent" and has promised to play more. www.upcdownc.com

SIGNING !! SIGNING !!

A huge congratulations goes out to Medway's finest heavy band nine days to no one, who have just been signed by Engineer Records (formerly Ignition), home to the likes of Eden Maine, Hunter Gatherer and Planes Mistaken For Stars www.engineerrecords.com. Big Tibetan wave and back pat to local artist David Ince for the band's artwork.

www.davidince.com. Nine days to no one's EP is due for release around March and their new improved website www.ninedaystonoone.com will be online this month. Look out for our interview with them in next month's issue.

Calling all DJ's

Guest DJ slots are available at Feedback, every Friday @ Bar M. Get in touch if you're interested and we'll pass on your details.

UK tour announced

The Barbs (headed by Medway

singer Tim) take their punk pop on the road with their Evil Rocks! Tour, playing Weds 18th @ the Islington Academy, London with The Rocks and Special Needs. Tickets are £4/5 from the venue. Their latest single 'The Importance Of Being Evil/Alien Abducted' is released on 16th Feb. "...they quite simply rock" NME.

www.thebarbs.co.uk

* Have your say *

A panel of music industry experts will be giving advice to musicians at Medway's first ever music conference, organised by Medway Council and MM2K. It has been confirmed to take place on Tuesday 9th March at the Tap n Tin, Railway Street, Chatham from 7.30pm.

Representatives from Rough Trade, the Music Union, BBC, PRS, Arts Council, Medway Council and META will head an advice panel.

Come along if you are in a band or would like to have your say in the future of the local music scene. Local venue managers, the press and promoters will also be there to discuss the development of local music. If music is your passion, you need to be there! Live music and chat over a few drinks will take place after the conference.

www.medwaymusic.net

Check MM2K's site at www.medwaymusic.net for gig listings, details on workshops and opportunities, links and more.

You can also download a PDF of this magazine here.

See www.mnmbands.co.uk for reviews, articles and downloads. www.parklifefestival.org.uk

GIG REVIEWS

EDDIE AND THE HOT RODS AT THE BEACON COURT TAVERN



WHAT A NIGHT!

Eddie and the Hot Rods proved that revolt is not just the domain of young trendy folk and what a revolt it was!

For the uninitiated, Eddie and the Hot Rods first came to the world's attention in the late 70's at the height of punk rock, although their music came from the minimalist tradition along with the genre of artists emerging from the Music Island known as Canvey in Essex. Along with bands such as Dr Feelgood, they brought an earthy and honest approach to music. Not much has changed. Eddie is probably even thinner than he was then, if medically possible. I've not seen a better advert for staying off drugs!

Despite his shallow proportions, the band belted through a set of post punk/power pop songs that would leave a lot of bands their age standing still. No oxygen tent or respirators needed. Eat your heart out Mick Jagger!! Not much of the original band remains but they have been replaced with excellent players. Amongst them, Richard Holroyd, who appears regularly on the BBC and is the star turn with John Otway, shortly to be appearing at the Beacon on 26th March, supported by the Cowpokers.

They crashed through their hits such as 'Teenage Depression' and 'Do anything you wanna do', surely an anthem for the post modern age, but 20 years ahead of its time when they wrote it. Alongside the familiar, there were some surprises. We were treated to a raucous version of 'Wooly Bully' the classic 60's soul number. Although I had managed to consume a few 'shandies' by the time they went on, I confess to being seduced by the sheer energy and conviction of their performance. The support band were also great. Raw energy and naive brilliance, this time coming out of youth rather than experience. The band simply played and, whilst I loved the artistic point of this, their 'art' prevented them from telling the

audience what their name was, and thus may have prevented me and others from seeing them again. Technique and attitude were there in abundance, but a tip; tell the audience the band's name at least once!

Piggy

Alternative review...



3 DBS DOWN

There is so much good live music around Medway and how often you just stumble upon it - of course there'll be nothing half decent for weeks now. So, I just walked into the Beacon court and there is a band banging out some really good punkrockska. Some think there are only two choices with ska punk: with brass or without brass but these guys go for the option that's fast, fun, well played and with some really neat vocal interplay between the band, oh and no brass. They played excellent stuff, with pure enthusiasm and a maximum fun factor.

They've lots of Kent gigs coming up, including a few in Medway, so go!

Oh, shame about Eddie and The Hot Rods, one of those seminal post punk bands, and due to headline tonight. They gave a very polished performance but after 3db's Down, they were just going through the motions.

www.3db'sdown.com

David Wraight

GIG REVIEWS



OPUS TREES ROCK THE TAP N TIN

We took over the pool room at the Tap one Saturday night to say farewell to MME reviewer and more importantly, a great friend and top bloke, Martin C, who leaves shortly to travel the world.

Martin first got in touch with MME a year and a half ago, wanting to learn more about the Medway scene as he was a regular gig goer up to London but had not seen the music on his own doorstep.

UpCDownC, The Barbs and the Opus Trees have become three of his favourite bands and regulars on his stereo, so we asked Opus boys Billy, Dale and Brett if they would come and play at his secret farewell do. As we stuck up interesting photos of Martin around the pub, the band had as long as they liked to soundcheck, in a room which I think has great acoustics. The result was mind blowing.

I have never been disappointed with any of their gigs, even when sound has been an issue at a venue, their songs still manage to shine through. But this was their best performance ever. As they began their set, the lead guitar introduction cut through the audience hum, many of us had seen them several times before but the noise they were creating made the ambience of the pool room electric. We all had silly, excited grins on our faces and proceeded to show our appreciation with dirty dance moves, arse slapping antics and much whoops of delight. I can't believe that there can be many of you out there who are still yet to see the Buckley-esque, dirty rock sound that Opus Trees do to perfection. But if you haven't, be good to yourself, GO!

Thanks guys x

Also, thanks Mart, you're a star and we can't wait to see you at Glasto x x

www.opustrees.co.uk

BIG WEDNESDAY AT TAP N TIN

It took a little while to get into this band. At first I thought, oh another indie band with some average covers but the second half of the set proved me wrong. Pretty soon the band were kicking in with 'Get Away From Me' and 'Forgetting to Remember', two ace tracks off their latest CD. They'd got the audience with them by then and finished off with a few good punky sounds and even a bash at The Who's My Generation. So, one of Ashford's finest, and an entertaining mix of indie, Sabbath, punk and other stuff. www.bigwed.co.uk

David Wraight



GIG LISTINGS

Mon 2 Feedback - Motion Picture Soundtrack +

Reasonable Doubt @ Bar M £2

Shep Woolley @ The Barge

Tues 3 Rock nite with Cortex DJs @ Railway Tavern,
Sheerness

Medway Folk Cellar @ Central Theatre feat Dave Ellis
& Boo Howard, Doug Hudson & The Hot Rats £6/£5

Weds 4 Jam Night @ TapnTin (top floor) Free

Bards at the Barge, jam night. First Wednesday each
month. Everyone welcome. Free

Thurs 5 1st Battle of the Bands preliminary @ Beacon
Court

UpCDDownC @ Infinity, Mayfair, London

Fri 6 Wilco Johnson Band @ Beacon Court £8

Feedback - Parker + The Long Weekend @ Bar M £1

3dbs down @ Tap n Tin pool room £2

CLUBS - SUBSOUND @ Pulse SubWar &

SureSoundDrum & Bass women free b4 10

- LOWRIDER @ TapnTin 2nd floor Hip Hop

Sat 7 As we sleep @ TapnTin (top floor)

Toot n Skamen @ Beacon Court £5

James Taylor Quartet @ Mick Jagger Centre from 7pm
£15/£13

Sun 8 Contemporary swing @ Eagle Tavern, Rochester

Ian East/Alex Hutton Band 1pm

Mon 9 Feb T.B.C @ Bar M

Tues 10 Medway Jazz Cellar @ Central Theatre feat.

Dave O'Higgins

Weds 11 Shag Monroes @ Beacon Court

nine days to no one + Parasite @ RAF Club, opposite

Command House

Thurs 12 Rock nite with Cortex DJs @ Railway Tavern,
Sheerness

Phobias + support @ Beacon Court

Folk At The Brook Theatre: Acoustic Strawbs

CLUB - Method on 3rd floor @ TapnTin underground
hip hop Free

Fri 13 Pink Side of the moon @ Beacon Court Free

Defzone + Cortex present Uniting the elements @ Tap
n Tin Pool Room £2

Feedback - As We Sleep + Support @ Bar M £2

nine days to no one + Parasite + Kriptonic @ The Fæ
Do, Rainham

CLUB - Azlan @ TapnTin 2nd floor Dub/reggae £2

Sat 14 Dire Fakes @ Beacon Court £5

Defzone and Cortex present Uniting the Elements @
Oast House

Sun 15 Uniting theElements, Morgan's Puff Adder and
more @ Wyvern Hall, Sittingbourne

Mon 16 Feb Feedback - Catch the Eye + Rhetorical @
Bar M £2

Tues 17 Rock nite with Cortex DJs @ Railway Tavern,
Sheerness

Weds 18 Soundial @ Tap n Tin 8:30 £5

Thurs 19 Battle of the Bands preliminary @ Beacon

CLUB - Breakism @ TapnTin 3rd floor Nu school beats
Free

Fri 20 Avilla + Reasonable Doubt @ Bar M £2

Bishop's Finger @ Beacon Court Free

Calling Nova + Ran For Days @ TapnTin Pool room £2



FEBRUARY 2004



Sat 21 Cell Block 9 @ Command House

Stoned Roses @ Beacon Court £5

Skurge @ Red Lion

Defzone @ TapnTin with The Gummy Babies +

Unforgiven £2

Sun 22 Jazz At The Brook Theatre: Just Friends

Mon 23 Contrast + Support @ Bar M

Tues 24 Rock nite with Cortex DJs @ Railway Tavern,

Sheerness

Thurs 26 Reasonable Doubt @ Beacon Court Tavern

(Battle of The Bands)

Fri 27 Kelly Maxwell @ TapnTin pool room £2

Feedback - Headstone + Support @ Bar M £2

CLUB - Re:Fried @ TapnTin 2nd floor £2

Sat 28 Fuzz @ TapnTin 3rd floor

Defzone and Cortex, 3 bands @ Oast House

Other stuff

New **rock jam** every Tues at The Command House - all playing abilities are welcome 8.30 til 11 (not 10th Feb)

New **book launch** and reading on **Fri 6** @ the New Art Centre, Chatham (left of Trafalgar Centre), Launch of Sexton Ming's 'Failed Intellectual 7- 10 pm. Entry is one can of Corned Beef per person (or £2.50 if you are vegetarian, though canned veg ought to be ok?) to be donated to the Medway Soup Kitchen.

REGULAR CLUB NITES:

Every Friday @ TapnTin - warning:rockets



DJ Tyn-b and the rivals play the best in new and old indie.alternative.rock.nroll. £2

Every Friday Feedback @ Manor Club Indie/Northern

Soul/Britpop,60's+70's Bands upstairs then club below

VENUES:

The Barge, 63 Layfield Rd, Gillingham.

The Tap n Tin, 24 Railway Street, Chatham.

The Command House, Dock Road, Chatham.

The Beacon Court Tavern, Canterbury Street, Gillingham.

Eagle Tavern, Rochester High St

The Oast House, Granary Close, Rainham.

Bar M, 3 New Road, Chatham, Kent.

Union Bar, 1-9 Pudding Lane, Maidstone.

The Red Lion, Crete Hall Road, Gravesend.

Mick Jagger Centre, Shepherds Lane Dartford

01322 291100

Pulse 79 High Street, Chatham

Jazz & Blues Cafe, 110 Week Street, Maidstone.

Gig listings are published free of charge.

Email details of your event, gig or club

night to nixta@btopenworld.com

before the 20th of the preceding month

for inclusion in the latest issue.

Check out **www.medway.music.net** and

www.mnmbands.co.uk for the latest gig updates



GIG REVIEWS

DOGMA & THE GODLESS REDS AT BAR M

BELIEF IN THE DARK SIDE

Ant, previously of FUS and now bassist of Godless Reds, sings in his latest band for the very first time and sets out to indoctrinate us with his rock band '**Dogma**'.

Ant Martin is joined by lead guitarist Dave Carter (ex-Babydoll), Simon Baxter on bass and Chris Baxter on drums.

The majority of the set consists of covers, including energised versions of 'Nowhere' by Therapy, 'Naked Pictures' by The Electric Six and 'Blitzkrieg' by Metallica. Three original songs hold up admirably amongst the covers, more are currently being written. 'Should I let you win' features a thrash ending, 'Burnout' is a tongue in cheek song about Kurt Cobain, and Chemical Beach (written by FUS/Dogma) ends their enjoyable set.



Their hard rock/thrash/no-nonsense style is promising. Look forward to hearing more of your own material. I'll see you at your next gig.

If you have a penchant for swinging your hair in a figure of 8, you'll love these guys.

The Godless Reds have done well in the past year. They reached the semi finals in Battle of the Bands, played a storming set at Parklife Festival and have played numerous London gigs. They were not at their best tonight - it was not the tight set we have come to take for granted when attending their gigs. They play quite an eclectic mix of songs, a mix of gloomy rock and punk. They perform dark and moody well but also display more upbeat undertones. If you like Placebo or Queen of the Damned, you'll be a tad silly to miss this band.

www.godlessreds.co.uk

INVITATION FROM THE COMMAND HOUSE

Landlord Sid invites all of you to join him on Friday 13th February at the Command House, Dock Road, Chatham for his huge birthday bash. He challenges you to a Yard of Ale competition, good luck - we've seen him in action! Top London DJs with high tech lighting will be supplying the party vibe. **EVERYONE WELCOME**

Email reviews to nixta@btopenworld.com. We would really like to hear from people who regularly attend a particular venue. Also, let us know if you would like us to come and review your gig or be featured within the magazine.

FUZZ AT CARLING ACADEMY, ISLINGTON

We piled into the Fuzz bus for the journey up to Islington. A cassette with pre-recorded welcome messages from the band played with some great music courtesy of Fuzz, Bonzai Reservoir and the much missed El Padre. After a couple of toilet stops we arrived, met up with Fuzz at the bar and continued the drink fest. We were forced to endure two terrible bands, but it was worth the wait when Fuzz took to the stage. They looked the bollocks and as soon as the very first note was played they had already blown the other two bands away. Trying to write a review of their gig is easier said than done, as they were amazing and left me pretty much lost for words. They played with tremendous energy, genius unfolding before us. A highlight for me was 'Nevermind' which is the best god damn song I've heard in the last 5yrs! What makes Fuzz

so great? Well everything really, they've got it all. The songs are fantastic, Tom H, Clayton and Tom B each master their instruments and their stage presence is second to none. Their set ended all too soon and we were left desperate for more. I acquired a copy of their new EP "Magpies and Eagles" before leaving - Which has not been out of my CD player since! Having witnessed the best gig I've ever been to, I stumbled onto the bus thinking, got to be up in 6 hours for work - that's rock n' roll for you! I crawled into work an hour late on Friday, looking and feeling like death, but knowing that it had all been worthwhile! Go and watch Fuzz the first opportunity you get before they get signed and you have to pay much more than a couple of quid to go and see them! www.fuzznroll.co.uk

Steve Peace

SHOUT OUT...

Bassist needed...

...for Alt Rock/Metal Band in South East London/Kent Area. Ability, good stage presence, commitment and easy to get on with are a must!

If this sounds like you then get in contact with Nel on 07798 640786

No time wasters please. nelcooper@hotmail.com

Get in touch...

...Skurge are interested in hooking up with other bands. Contact via website www.skurge.co.uk

Brixton gig...

Nick from Two Stone Shoes says "I just spoke to the top brass at Brixton Telegraph and he's given us a Thursday night gig if I could arrange two other decent bands to play with us.

I'm planning all this for the end of March, beginning of April. We will arrange a coach. Put the word out!

Email Nick on oakleyagency@tiscali.co.uk

if you want to come along.

Email nixta@btopenworld.com

if you would like to put a notice here - whether you're after a support band, a musician for a new band or help with a demo... Instruments for sale/needed - just let us know.



...Singer/songwriter Ali English is **looking to collaborate** with local musicians across all genres. If you have a current or future project that might benefit from female vocals for recording or live purposes, send an email via the web site www.alienglish.com 28y ear old Ali has been coached for the last five years by Maidstone-based singing teacher Nicky Moore and has released two demos in the last 12 months, the acoustic rock EP 'Wanted', written and produced by Ali English and guitarist Dave Miller and the dance EP 'In your hands', put together by Basscamp Studios, also featuring Magic Lee from Bonsai Reservoir, on sax. She has experimented successfully with musical genres including rock, pop, dance, folk, blues and jazz and is able to send you a free, CD demo tailored to the genre you wish to work in, upon request.

Ali says, "I have no illusions about how tough the music business is. To me, music should be enjoyable, so I've taken a conscious decision to no longer push myself as a solo artist to record companies. Stuff 'em all. I just want to write, sing, play live and record with great people doing great things and see what comes of it." www.alienglish.com

NEW TUNES

FUZZ - MAGPIES & EAGLES (3RD EP)



Opening Track 'Magpies & Eagles' has that magical Fuzz formula of peaks and troughs. Flowing through bluesy, soulful guitar riffs accompanied by bare beats, slowly but surely whipping up into rock n roll explosions backed by whirling psychedelic background noise. It hits the spot like 'Public Eye'. More please. 'Nevermind' features an intriguing relationship between bass and drums. What this track lacks in lyrics, is more than made up for by the musicianship of Clay, Tom B and Tom H.

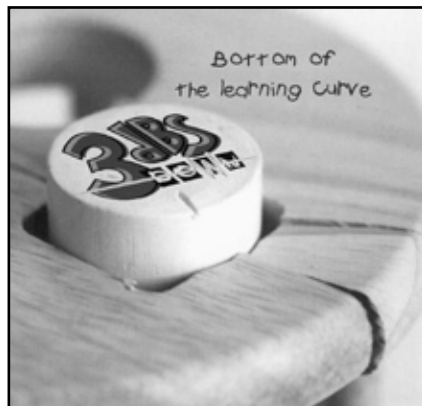
'The Letter' is a soulful track, displaying Tom's softer vocal strength and features some sexy guitar solos. 'You can't catch me' he sings - we can damn well try! The 'One Note Brown' cover features saxophonetic, funk fused tunes twinned with nimble guitar frolicks. The more I listen, the more I like. Keep it coming guys.

Available at Sounds Perfect in Chatham and Magic Discs in Gillingham.

You can catch the awesome Fuzz at TapnTin on Sat 28th.

www.fuzznroll.co.uk

3DBS DOWN - BOTTOM OF THE LEARNING CURVE (1ST ALBUM)



First thing to strike me was the professional CD artwork and the small print - 'Any unlawful nicking of our tunes will result in us sending the boys round as we can't afford the lawyer'. This punk/rock/ska band give a 'three pronged vocal attack', backed by charged, sometimes dark, but more often pop-infused tunes. Catchy stuff. Full of fast, furious guitar licks, twists and turns - it leaves you breathless. Influences range from Smashing Pumpkins to The Beach Boys and Less Than Jake. See them perform at TapnTin on Fri 6th.

www.3dbsdwn.com

Email reviews of local music or details of your band's new release...
nixta@btopenworld.com

NEXT MONTH...

- **WHY YOU NEED TO BE AT MEDWAY'S FIRST EVER MUSIC CONFERENCE**
- **WE HANKER FOR HALF PINTS WITH CONTROL OF REASON AND NEWLY SIGNED NINE DAYS TO NO ONE**
- **PLANS FOR MEDWAY VENUES**
- **CD REVIEWS OF THE LONG WEEKEND AND TAPT**

Email **nixta@btopenworld.com**, visit **www.medwaymusic.net** for magazine download and news, **www.mnmbands.co.uk** for downloads, chatroom, gig listings and more...



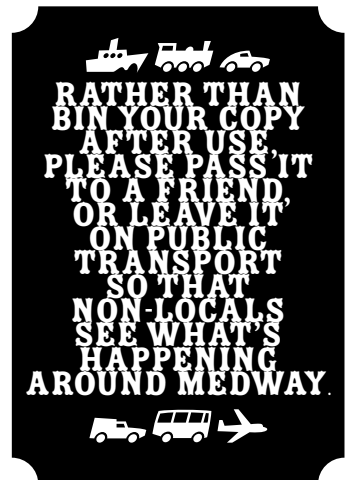
*Thanks to the following contributors this month:
David Wraith, Piggy, Steve Peace, Ali boo & the bands*

MME is published by Me each month and is distributed throughout the area to places and people that support live music. It is free of charge to you readers, but a big thanks goes out to venues and shop owners for contributing to the production costs.

While every care is taken to provide accurate information, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, no matter how caused. Please check with the venue concerned regarding events, as details can change at short notice.

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We aim to be fair in everything we write, reviews are written by gig-goers making personal judgements (which do not always match those of the publisher). Go check the talent out for yourself and tell us what you think.



SITES

BANDS...

www.alienglish.com
www.aswesleep.com
www.avillaband.com
www.abingerdrive.com
www.callingnova.com
www.controlofreason.com
www.freewebs.com/lyca
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www.fuzznroll.co.uk
www.godlessreds.co.uk
<http://groups.msn.com/Neonhalo>
www.longweekend.com
www.morganspuffadder.com
<http://mysite.freemove.com/thegummybabies>
www.ninedaystonoone.com
www.onedayelliott.co.uk
www.opustrees.co.uk
www.orphanweb.net
[Reasonable Doubt www.rdmetal.cjb.net](http://www.reasonabledoubt.com)
www.scapa-flow.net
www.skurge.co.uk
www.10sidezero.com
www.thebarbs.co.uk
www.theebillychildish.com
www.thegilttrip.com
www.3dbdown.com
www.upcdownc.com
www.wearethemeeek.co.uk

ADVICE AND INFORMATION...

www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/record.html is a guide to the major record labels and their subsidiaries

www.bbc.co.uk/radio1/onemusic

www.sonymusic.co.uk

DOWNLOADS, GIGS, REVIEWS...

MM2K site www.medwaymusic.net

www.mnmbands.co.uk

www.kentindie.co.uk

www.hardplace.net

www.consorted.co.uk

www.kentgigs.com

www.skinchimney.com

ART STUFF...

www.anjali.org.uk

www.ellaguru.org.uk

www.sextonming.co.uk

VENUES...

www.tapntin.co.uk

www.thecommandhouse.co.uk

www.myofficesecretary.com/thebarge

PROMOTERS...

www.cortex-rock.co.uk

fipzie.com

CHECK WWW.MEDWAYMUSIC.NET FOR THE LATEST GIG UPDATES